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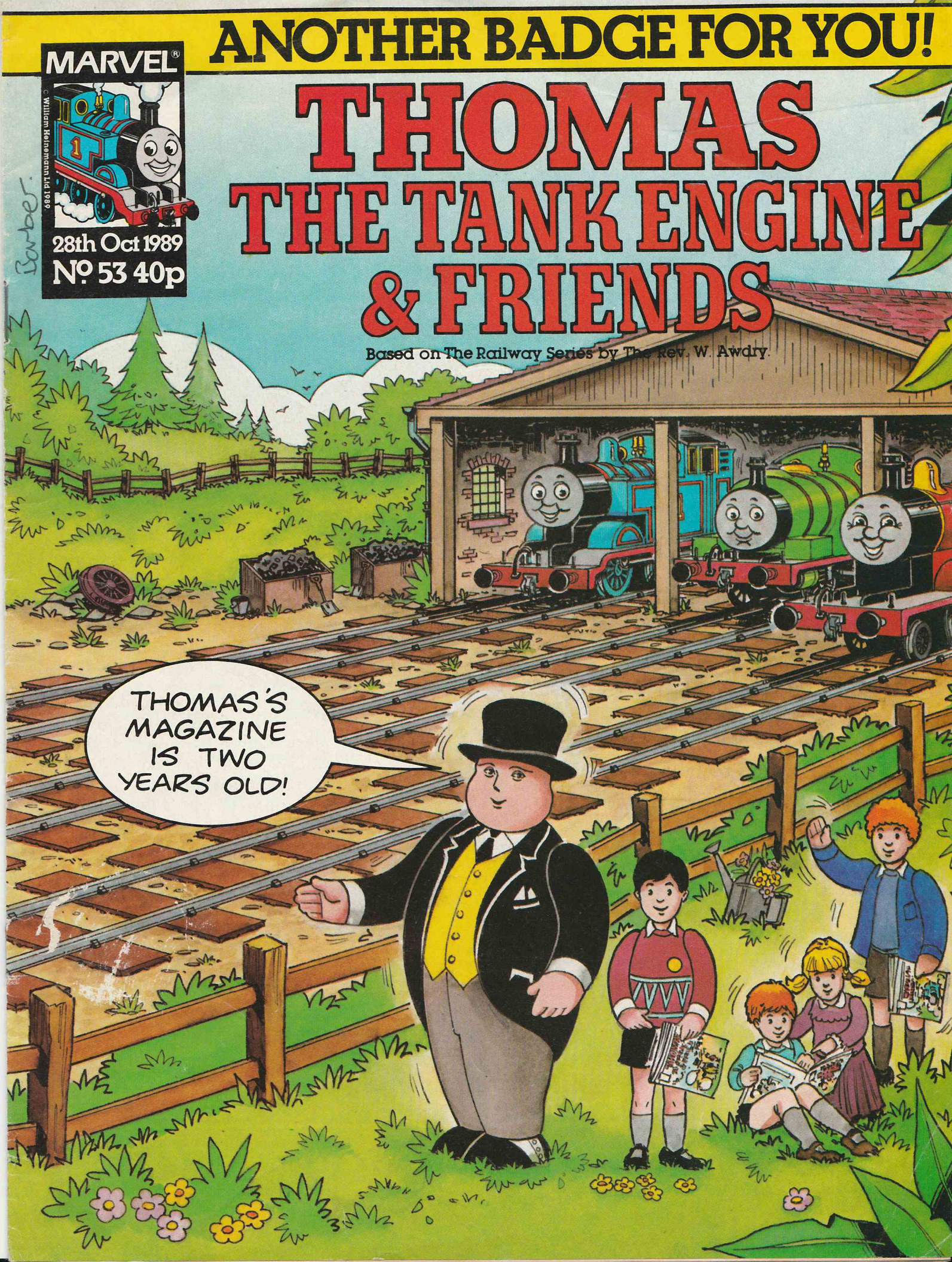
28th Oct 1989
No 53 40p

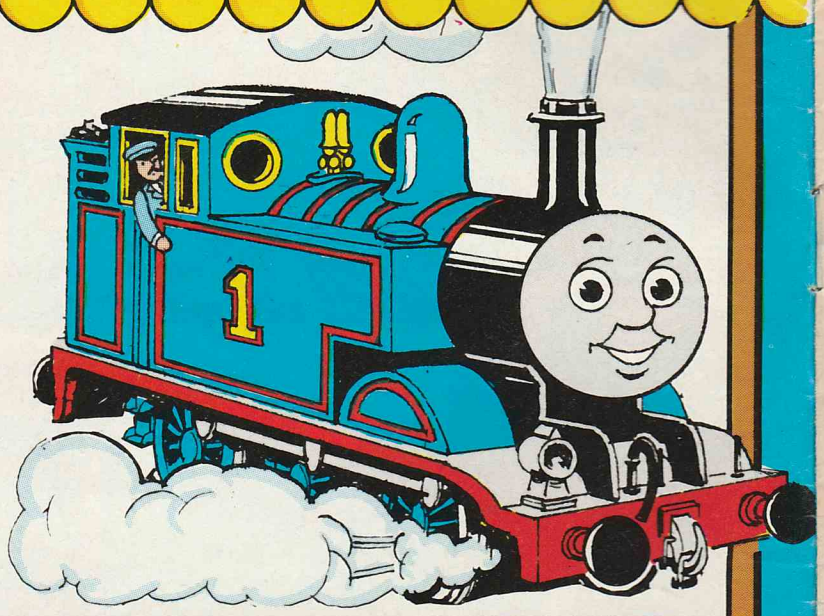
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Poor Bertie is having a very rough journey indeed as he travels along his bumpy road. Oh dear, he even falls down a pothole! Later on, in our second story, Thomas takes all the old people of Sodor on a very unusual picnic. Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Details are on page 7!

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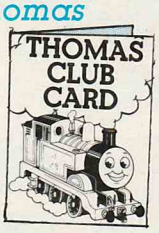
There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. Just collect 3 tokens like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one yellow one red and one green token, together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*



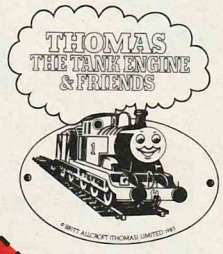
Please allow 28 days for delivery of your very own little black and white membership card plus number!

WELCOME!

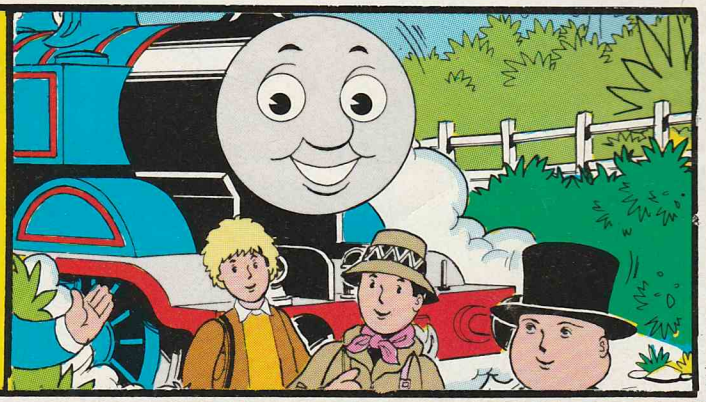
The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Marc Jerram, Sam Constable (25519), **Lucy Warwick,** aged 2, **Marcus Bell, John David Brecht** (28346), **Robert Collier** (27140), **Rebecca Ward, Gavin Mitchell** and **Sarah Mason** (24633).

If you'd like a special hello from the Fat Controller, please send him your details at the address shown on the letters page.



In our next issue: Thomas takes extra passengers! There's a splendid competition too!



THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.
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ABC
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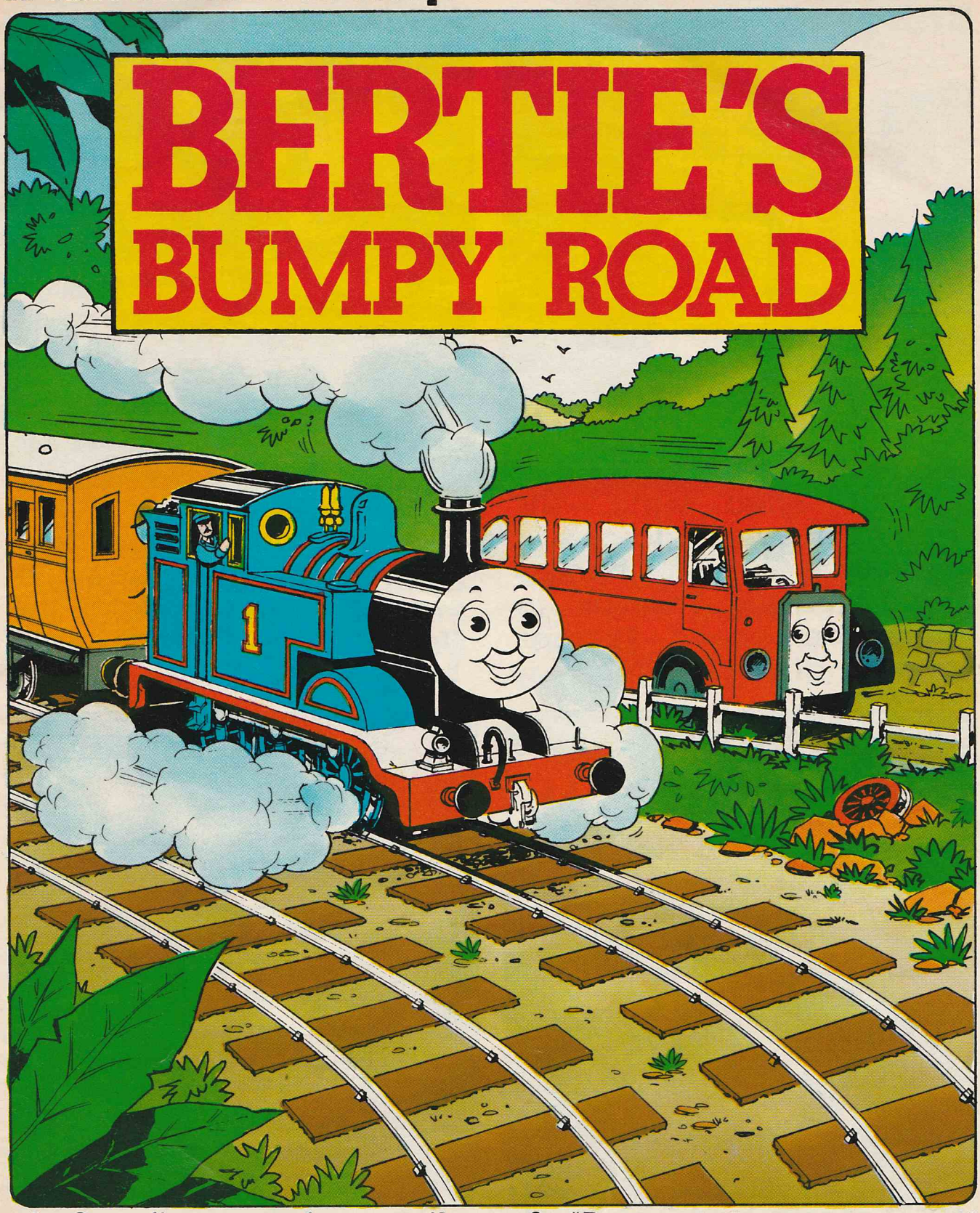
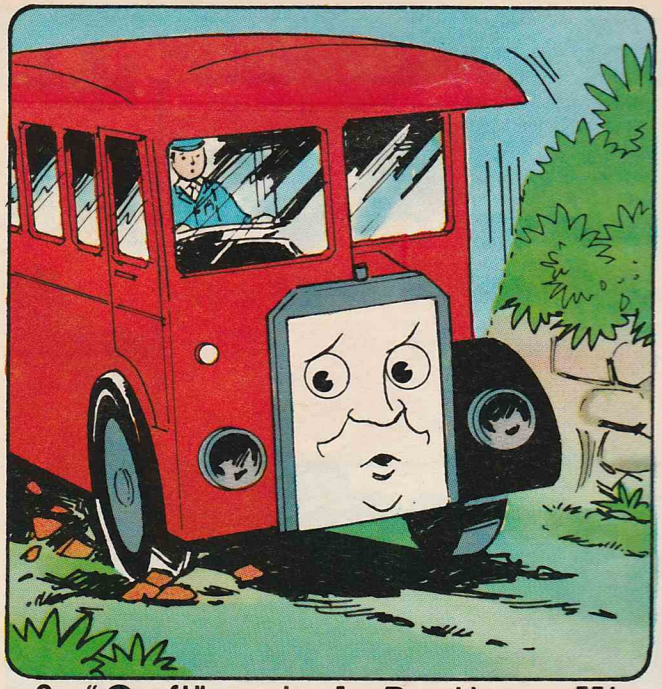
A listen and look story!

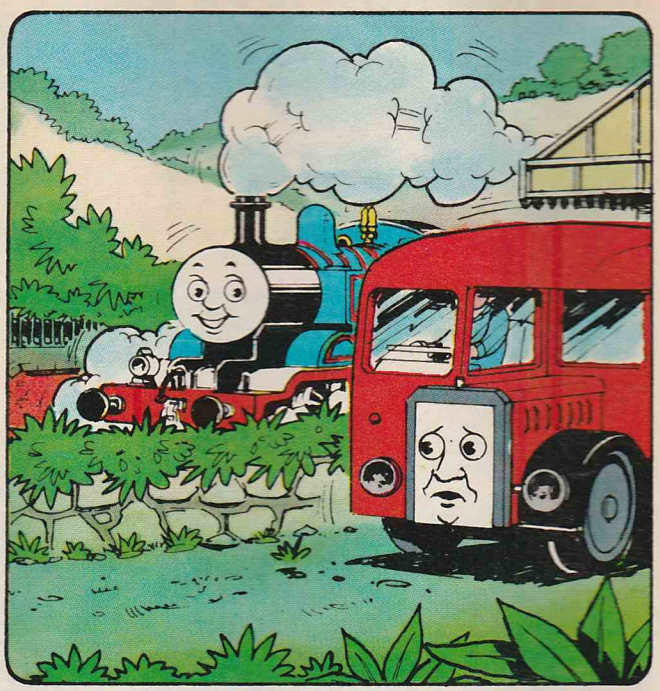


1. One fine morning on the Island of Sodor, Thomas was pulling Annie and Clarabel on his branch line, when he saw Bertie the bus, driving along the road beside him.

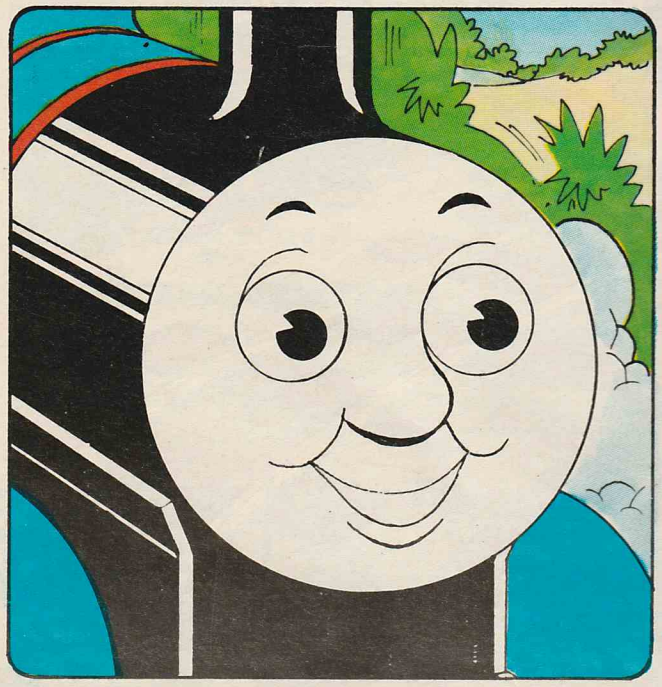
2. "Peep peep peep peep!" whistled Thomas. "Hullo, Bertie! Care for a race to the station?" But before Bertie could reply he hit a pothole in the road!



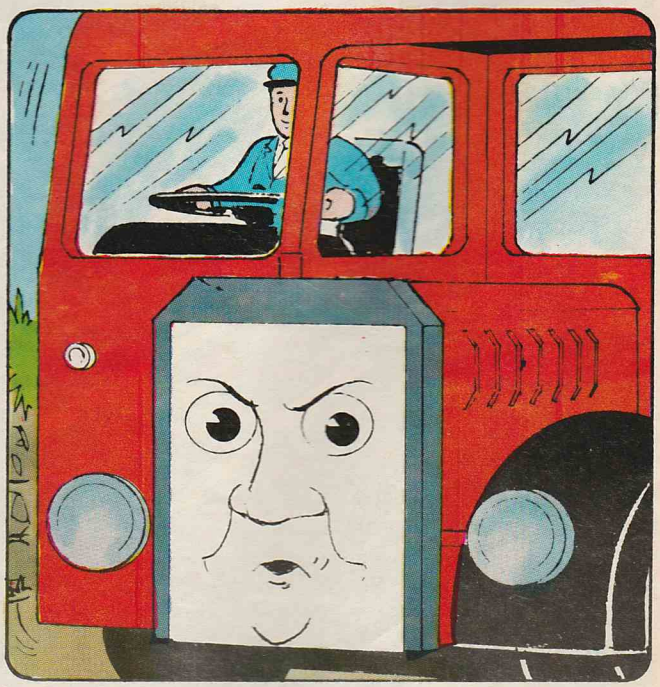
3. "Oof!" cried Bertie. His driver slowed down to negotiate the bumpy road, leaving Thomas to hurry on ahead. Thomas waited at the station.



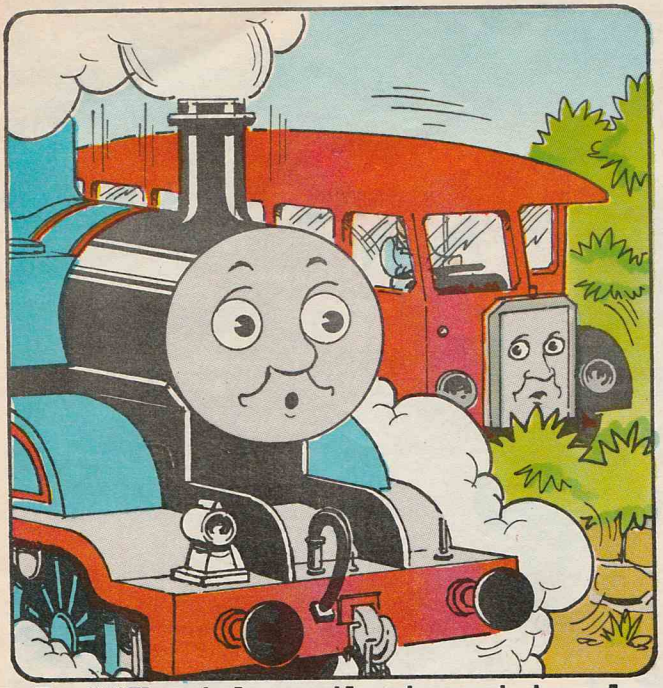
4. "Hullo there, slow poke!" cried Thomas when at last, the bus arrived. Bertie's passengers hurried to catch the train. "Hullo, Thomas," said Bertie, glumly.



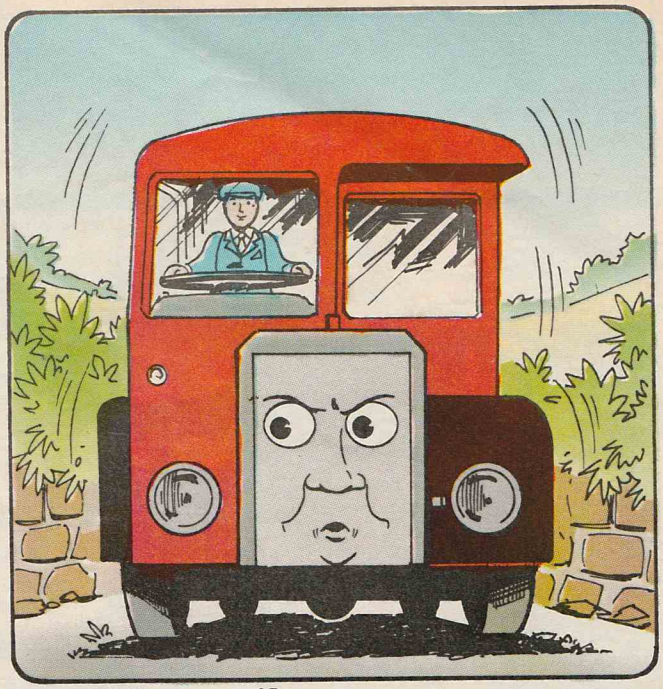
5. "That was bad luck back there," said Thomas. "Sometimes I bet you wish you were a train, so you could run along a pair of nice smooth even rails!"



6. "Don't talk to me about trains!" said Bertie. "If it weren't for trains, then I wouldn't be in this mess at all. I've already had three punctures in two weeks!"

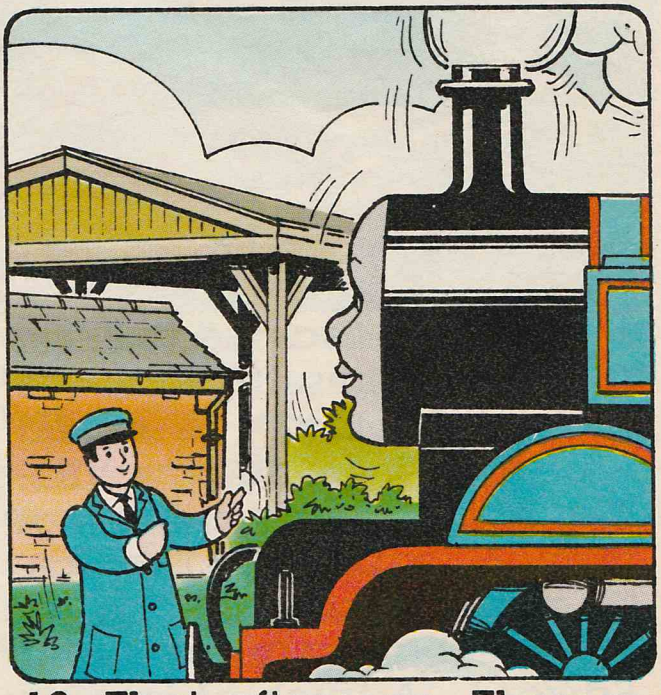


7. "What has that got to do with trains?" asked Thomas. "There are great big potholes all over the roads!" replied Bertie. "If the tarmac had arrived they'd be repaired."



8. "The railway was supposed to deliver the tarmac weeks ago, but there's no sign of it," Bertie continued. "You can never trust a train!" He was quite beside himself.

9. "I am a train," Thomas said. "I'm your friend too! You can trust me, Bertie. I'll look into it for you. I'll see what I can do." "We shall see," said Bertie.



10. That afternoon, Thomas went to the big yard. He asked about the tarmac. "We have had some enquiries," said the Station-master. "But we can't find it."

11. Thomas decided to have a look for himself. "What are you doing?" asked Edward, when he saw him. "I'm trying to find a truck of tarmac," explained Thomas. "It seems to have been mislaid." "That is funny," said Edward. "A truck of tarmac was left at my station and nobody has come to collect it." They soon sorted out the muddle.

12. The men who worked on the roads collected their tarmac from Edward's station and set to work repairing the roads. When Thomas next saw Bertie, he was in a much better mood. "Thanks for all you did," said Bertie. "It's alright," said Thomas. "You can always trust a train," said Bertie. "Especially if his name is Thomas!"

THE END

In our next issue: The wrong van!

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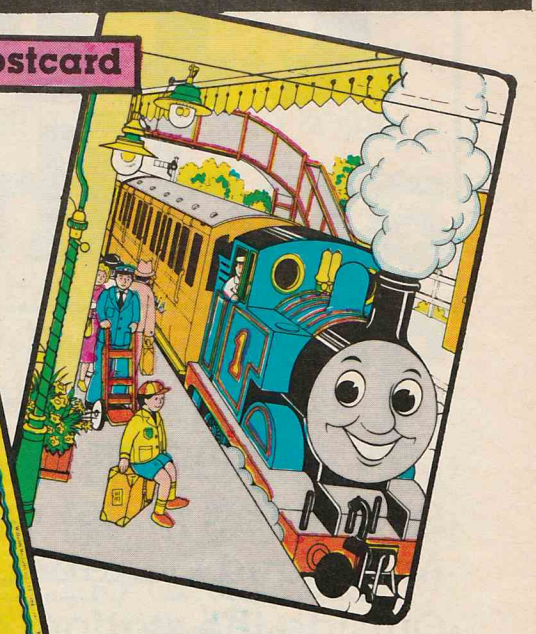

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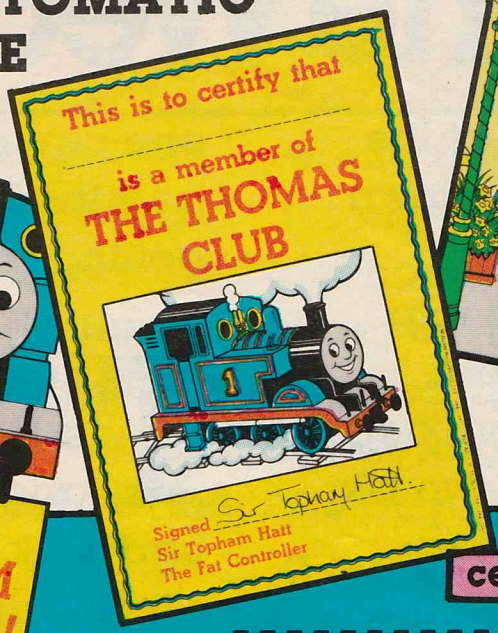

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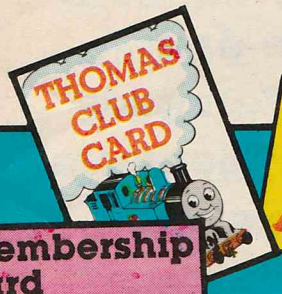

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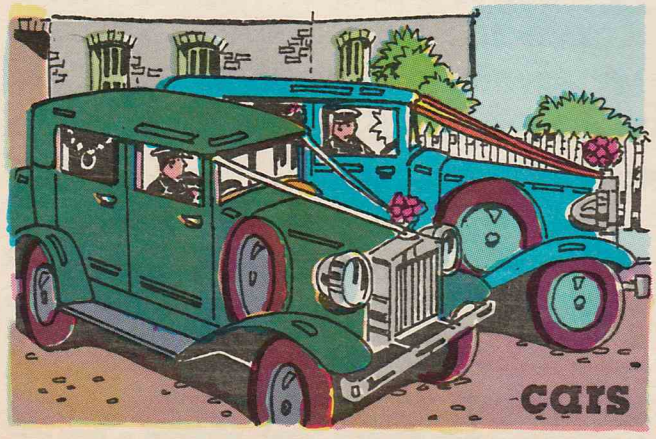
A read-aloud story!

Thomas and the Wedding

Thomas was at the station in the town waiting for his passengers to get into Annie and Clarabel. Outside the station, across the road, he saw two big cars with ribbons on them.

"What are those cars doing there with those ribbons on them?" Thomas asked his driver.

"There is going to be a wedding," said the driver. "Look, there is the bride and her father getting into one car, and her mother and the bridesmaids getting into the other one."



The bride was wearing a long white dress and the bridesmaids had pink dresses. They were all carrying flowers and Thomas thought they looked very nice.

The cars drove away and soon afterwards the signal changed, the guard blew his whistle and Thomas puffed down the line.

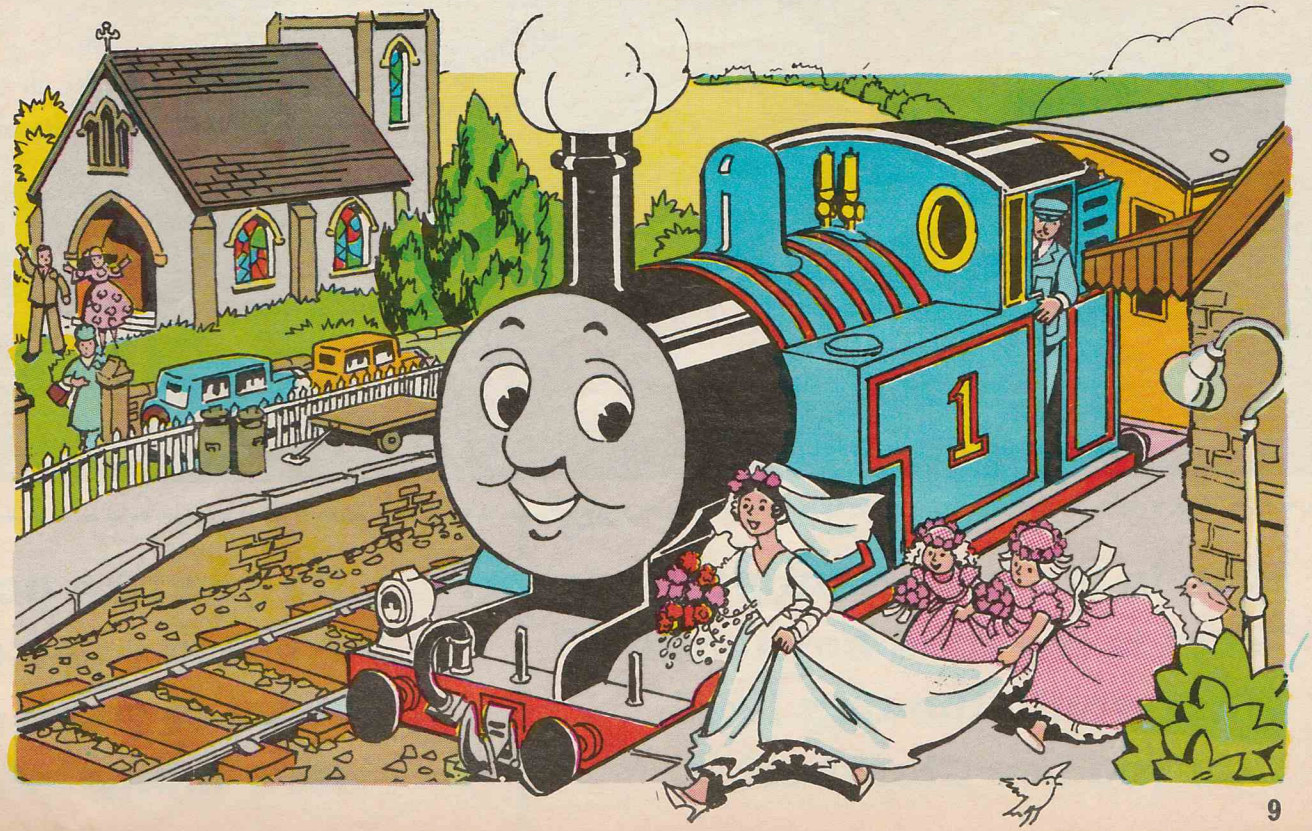
As they were going up the hill Thomas saw that the two big cars had stopped on the road. One of them had its bonnet up. One of the bridesmaids saw Thomas and waved at him, shouting, "Stop! Stop!"

Thomas stopped and the bridesmaid told him, "We have to get to the church for a wedding but one of the cars has broken down! Please Thomas, you will have to take us there or we shall be late!"

The bride, the bridesmaids and the mother and father got into Annie and Thomas set off again. At the station near the church they got off and started to run down the road. Thomas could see the vicar and some wedding guests outside the church. They were looking out for the cars and were very surprised to see people running down the road instead!

A few weeks later the bride came to see Thomas. She was wearing ordinary clothes now. She said, "Thank you very much, Thomas! We would have been very late for my wedding if you had not come along at the right moment. I shall never forget my wedding and I shall never forget that you saved the day! If one day we have a baby boy, we shall name him after you."

"Peep! Peep!" said Thomas happily. **THE END**



Past the barb

Who is the important party visitor?
What is the little boy reading?
What would the dog like?
Can you see Clarabel?

Do you like parties?
Point to some smoke!
Point to some steam!
How many balloons ca

beque party!

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am!

ons can you see?

Next issue: There's the first of a brand new, four-part Thomas Game, for you to collect! The mural will return in issue 58!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Extra fun with Thomas!

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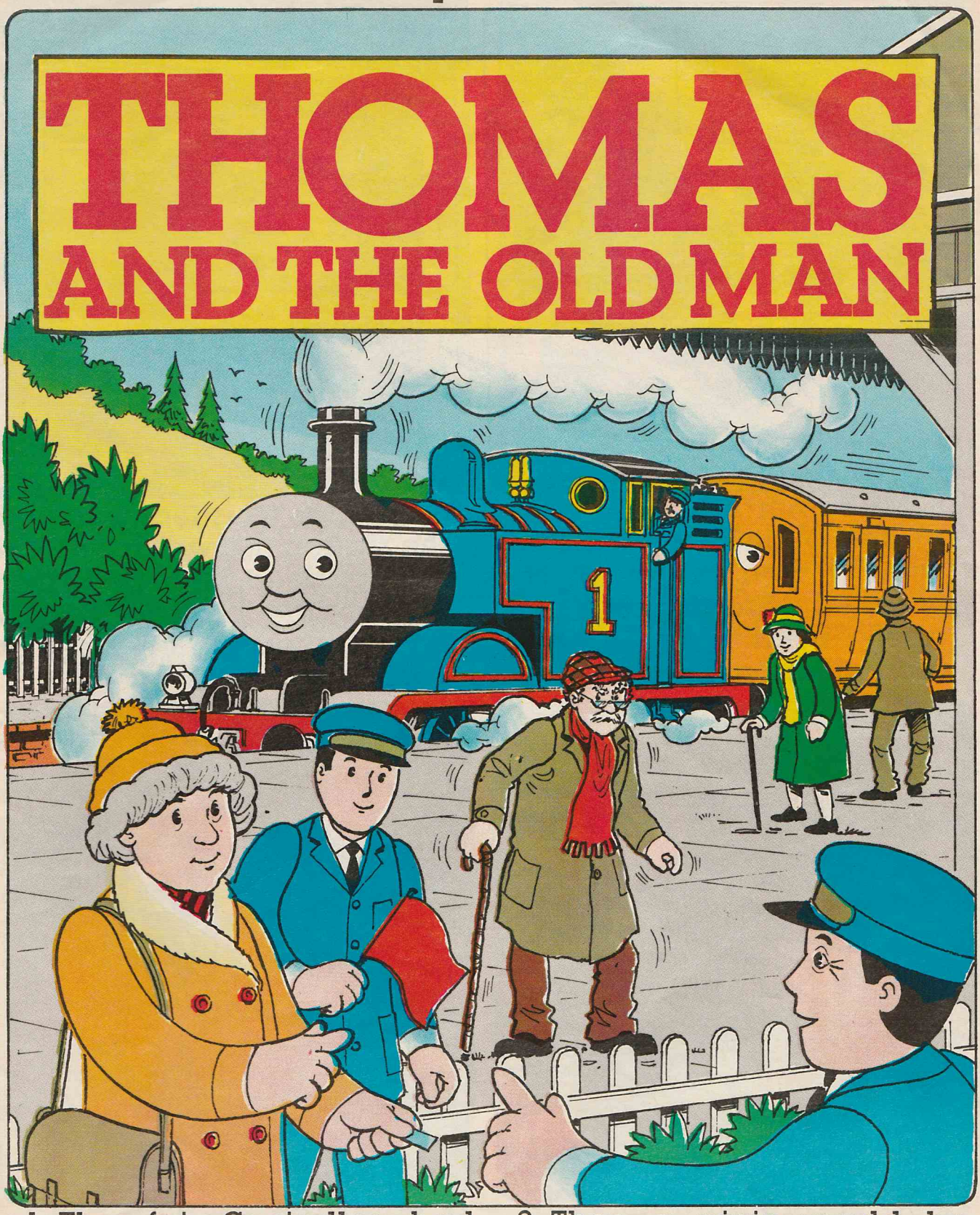
A great big THOMAS STICKER for you with issue 1

A listen and look story!



1. The fat Controller had organised a special outing for the old people of Sodor. It was decided that Thomas was to take them for a trip around the island.

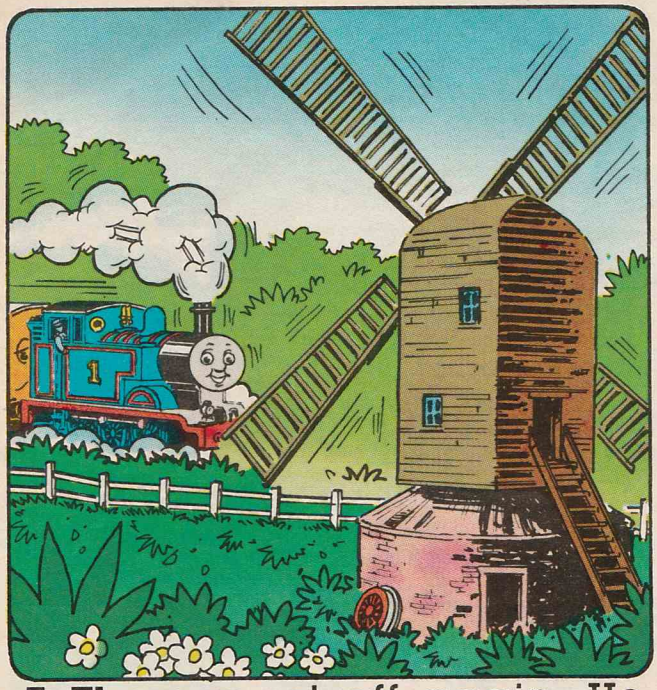
2. Then a pinic would be held. "What a lovely idea," thought Thomas But one old man didn't think so. "Trains are noisy, smelly things," he grumbled.

3. Mr Turner had only come on the outing to please his wife. "I won't enjoy it," he moaned, climbing into Clarabel. "What a crosspatch," thought Thomas.

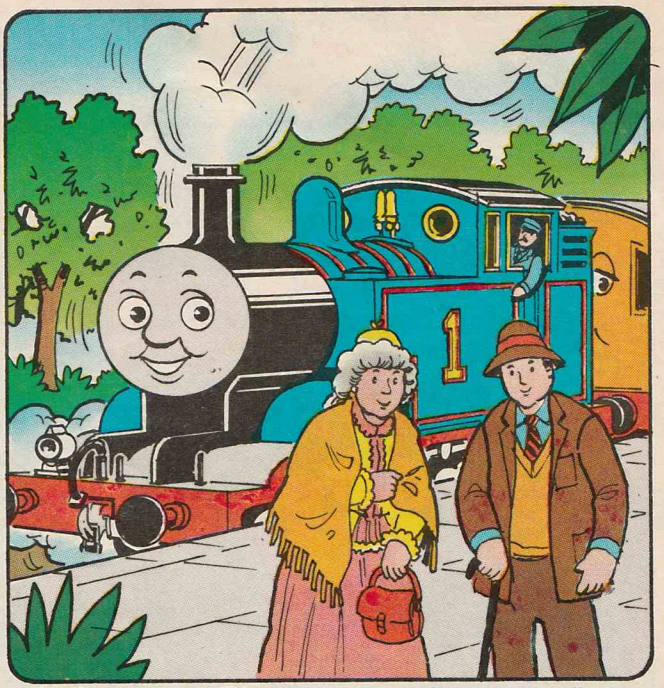
4. Thomas whistled as he left the station. He was just picking up speed when his driver put on the brakes. "Someone's pulled the emergency cord," he cried.

5. "I do hope one of my passengers hasn't been taken poorly," thought Thomas. But it was only Mr Turner. "You're going much too fast," he complained.

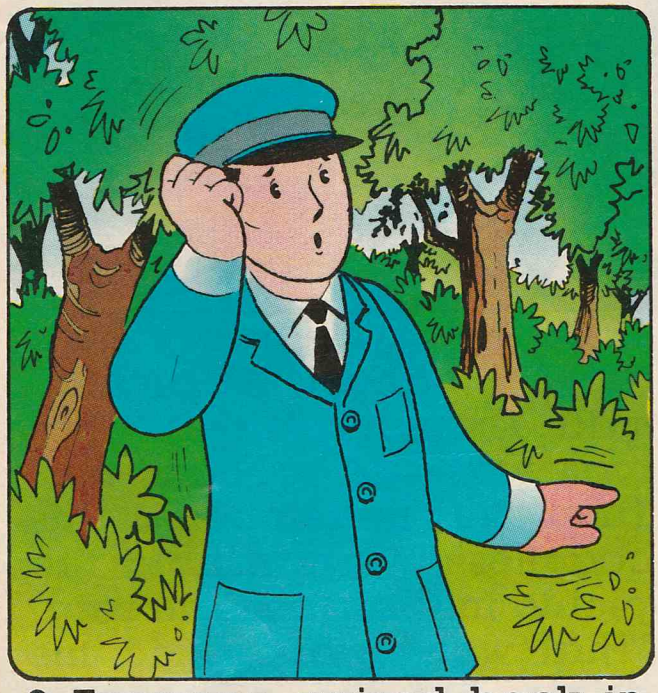
6. Thomas's driver was very cross indeed. "The cord is only to be used in emergencies," he said. "I'll let you off this once, but don't do it again."



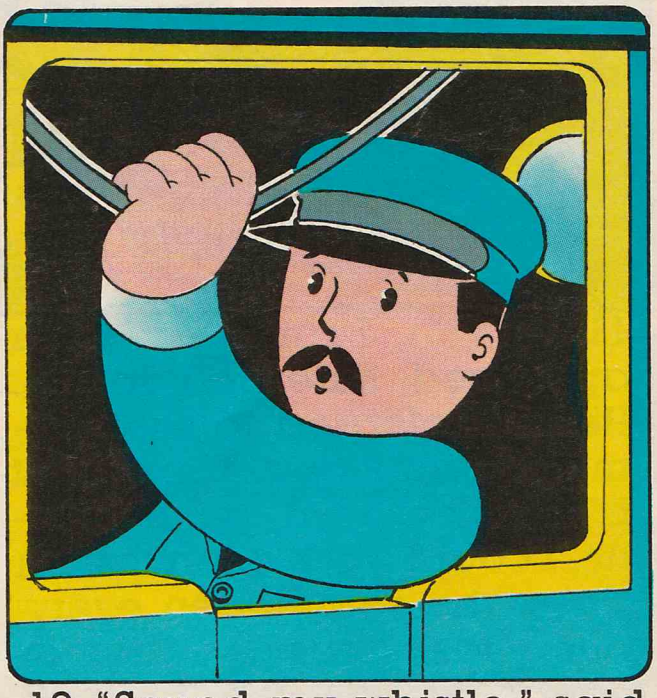
7. Thomas set off again. He took a slow pace, so as not to upset Mr Turner. The guard pointed out places of interest to the passengers on their travels.



8. Later, Thomas stopped to allow the pensioners to have a wander in a wood. "We shall stop here for ten minutes," said the driver.



9. Everyone arrived back in time, except for Mr Turner. "He must have got lost," said Thomas' engineer. "We'll never find him in this big wood."



10. "Sound my whistle," said Thomas. "Mr Turner can follow the sound of the whistle back to the train." The driver did as Thomas suggested. "Peep Peep," cried Thomas.

11. Mr Turner soon appeared, safe and sound. He was pleased to see Thomas. "Thank you, Thomas. If I hadn't heard your whistle, I could have been lost for days," he said. When everyone was aboard, Thomas continued on the journey. Thomas looked at the dark clouds. "I hope it doesn't rain," he thought.

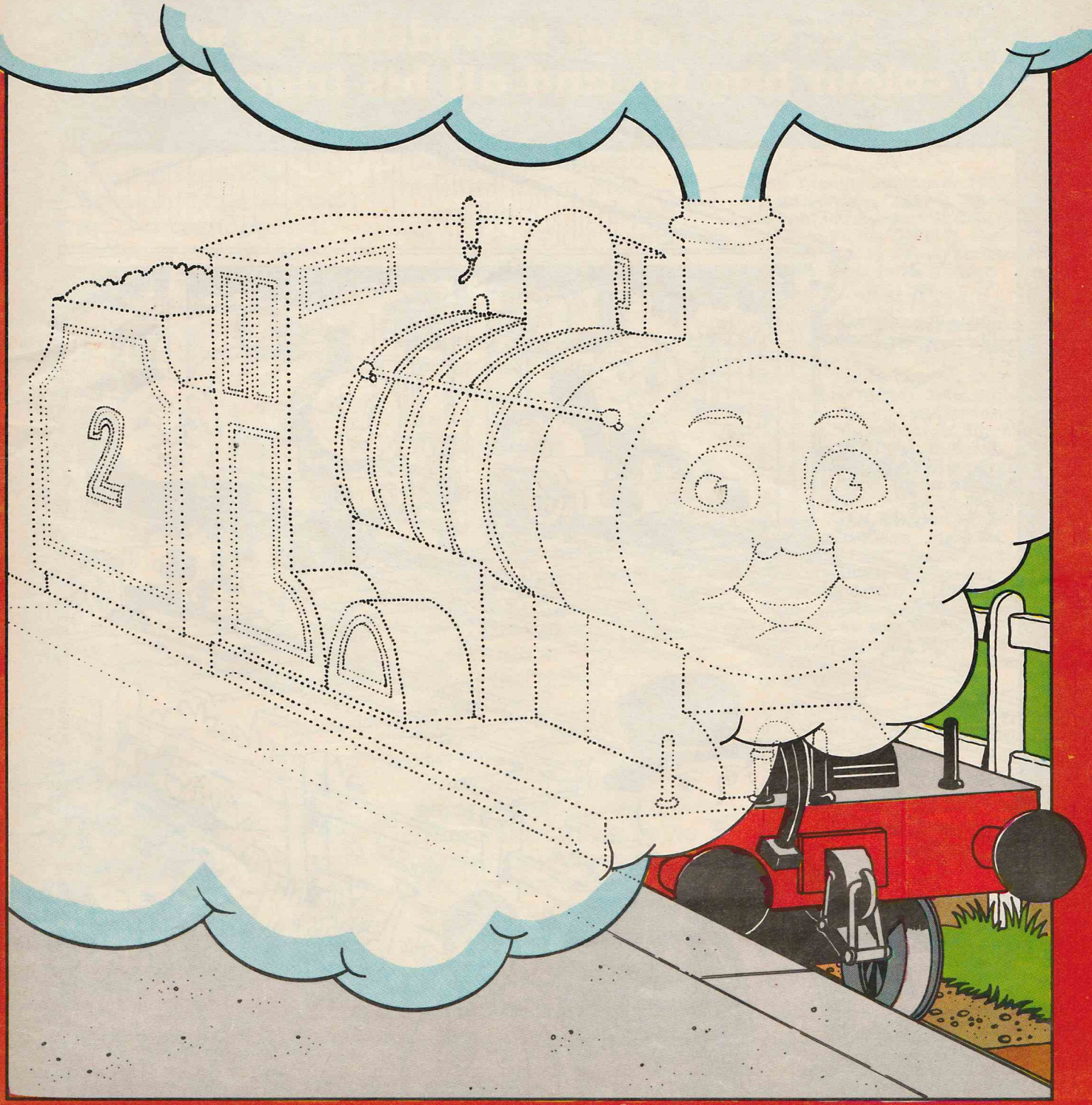
12. But it did rain. "We'll have to cancel the picnic," said Thomas's driver. Thomas was sad to hear this. Then he remembered his coaches. "We can hold the picnic in Clarabel," he said. "That won't work," said his driver. But the passengers thought it was a great idea. "This is the best outing I've had," laughed Mr Turner.

THE END

More fun on the line in our next issue!

PUZZLE TIME

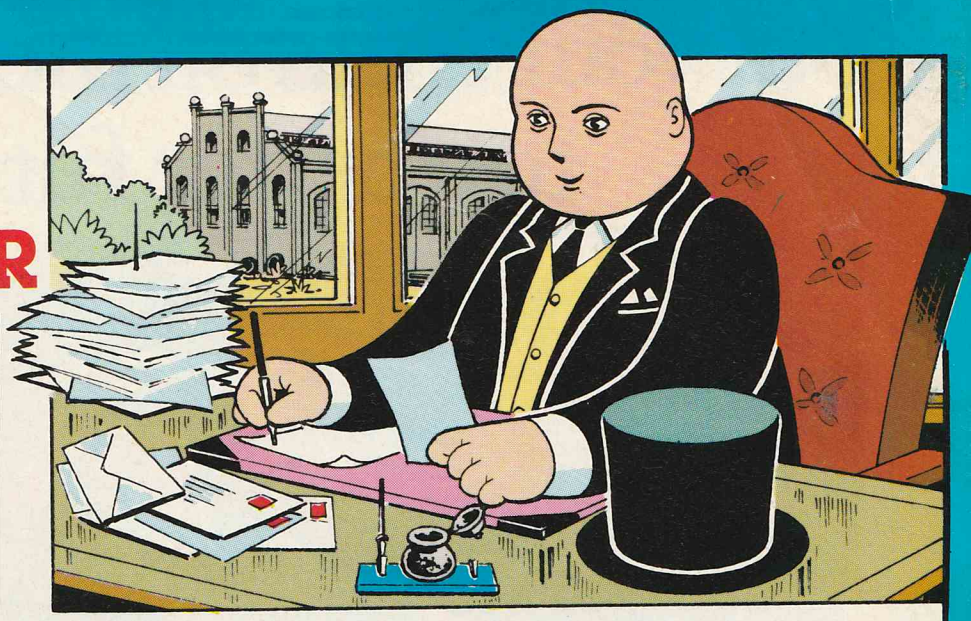
**Someone's making too much steam . . .
whoever can it be?
Join up the little dots, and very soon
you'll see!**



COLOURING TIME!

The Fat Controller is nodding at you,
To colour him in, and all his friends too!

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last night Mummy and I saw a grasshopper. I had your comic with Percy on the cover. The grasshopper jumped onto Percy thinking that he was a nice green leaf.

From **Harry,** aged 5.

Gracious me! He must have been a very hungry grasshopper indeed to have mistaken Percy for his lunch!

★★★★★★★★★

Harry wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch from *Uni-lite Leisure Ltd.*

PLUM PIE!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you and Thomas ever eat plum pie?
Love from **Lisa,** aged 7.

Well, well! Plum pie is one of my favourite foods, you know. In fact, I regularly eat it for my dessert, at least once a week, I should say. As for Thomas, he has only the finest black coal, and nothing else.

FAVOURITE WORK!

Dear Fat Controller,
Does Percy enjoy working in the wildlife park and which are his favourite animals?

From **Michael,** aged 5.

Of all the lines Percy works on, none gives him more pleasure than the one going through the wildlife park. He enjoys meeting all the different animals as he passes by, especially his two favourite friends, Gerald and Sally, the giraffes.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go out to:

Ian Thomas Jenkinson (28267), Helen Wright (27494), Alicia Wright, Jason Jarratt (25083), Jasmin Vicary (30259), Stuart Archer (2261), Simon Linford (5221), Michael and Sarah Brownlie (23361), Marc Hutchinson (12312), Daniel John Hayden (28697), Bryan Newell, Thomas R. Dent, Jennifer Halley McGeary (2232), Benjamin Woods, James Osment, Stuart Chubbock (0684), John James Watkins-Field, Kara Fraser (26761), Ian Wharton, James Rodgers, Nicholas Burgess (11802), Christopher Baldock (25230), Scott Taylor (26239), Nicky Baker, Amanda Jones, James Yank, Morgan Hardiman, Liam Richardson, Jonathon Salway (11748), Adam Hartley (12075), Philip Plomer (7462), Desmond Argyle, Lee-Hayley Salter (3244), Dean Salisbury (24517), Denise Keenan, Matthew Walster, Eleanor Wall, Matthew Glen Wood and Simon Ward (0067).

If you'd like a mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance**. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try our best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

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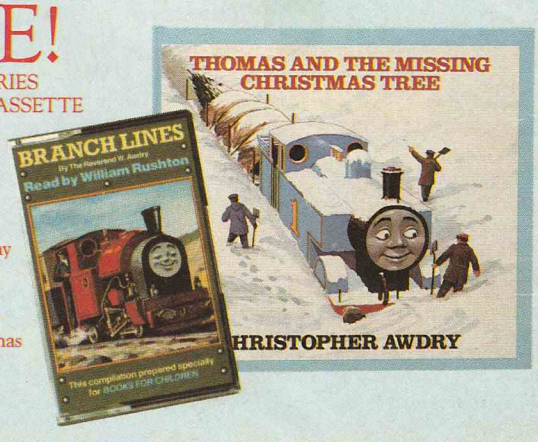
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